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(54) **ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY APPARATUS**

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H01L 27/12; H05B 33/04
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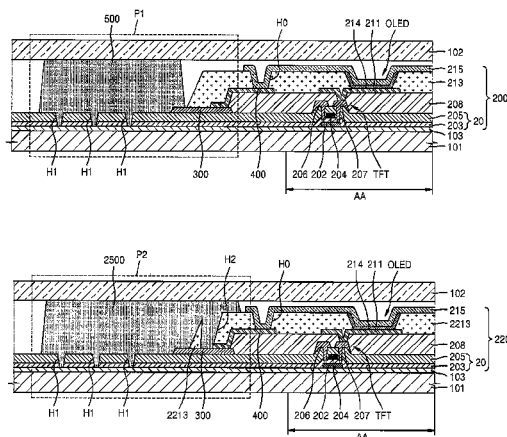
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An organic light-emitting display apparatus includes a first substrate, a display unit defining an active area on the first substrate and including an insulating layer, a second substrate on the display unit, one or more signal lines outside the active area and on the insulating layer, and a sealant between the first substrate and the second substrate. The sealant bonds the first substrate and the second substrate, and covers at least a portion of the signal lines.

13 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



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FIG. 1

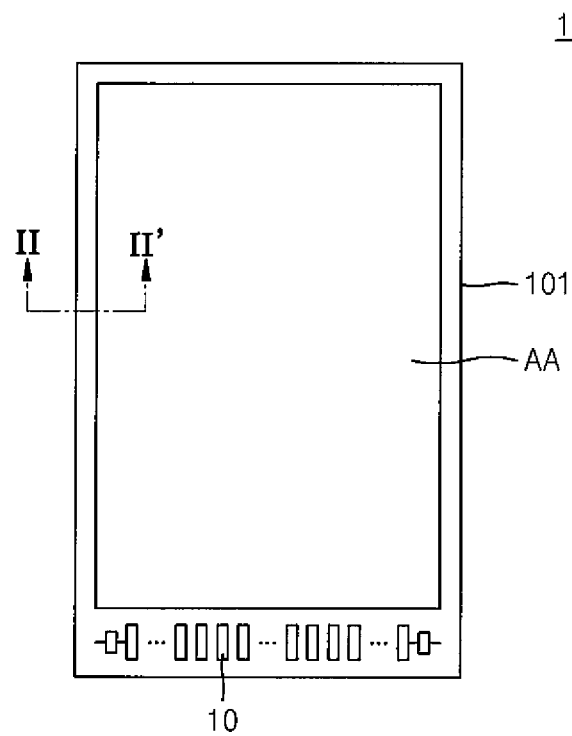


FIG. 2

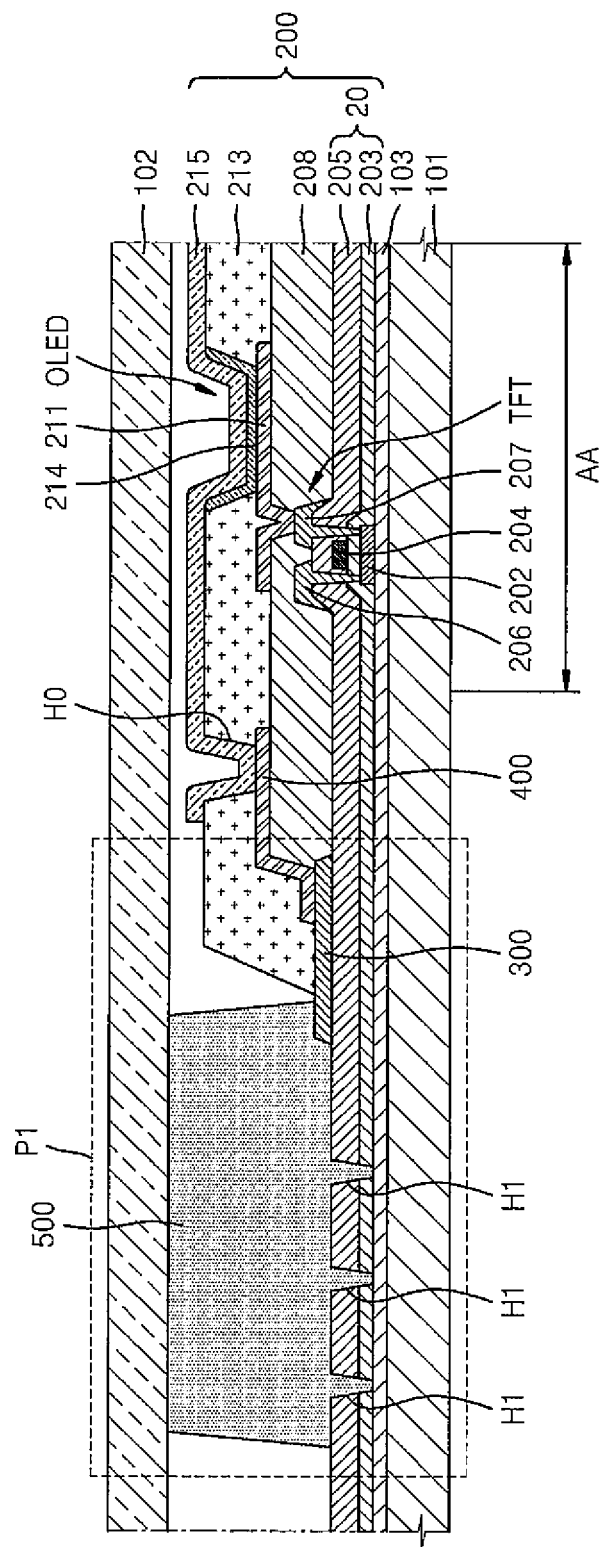
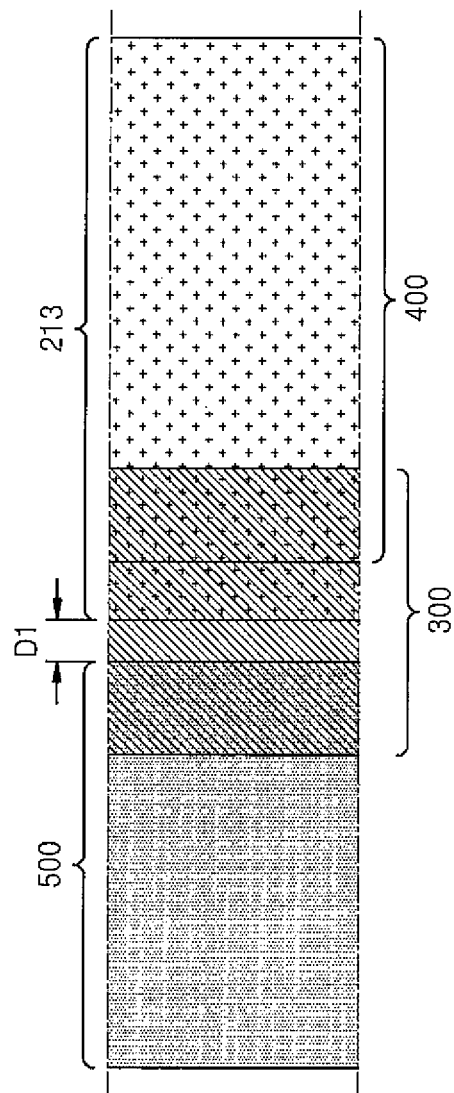


FIG. 3



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**ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY
APPARATUS****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION**

This application claims priority to and the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2014-0019222, filed on Feb. 19, 2014 in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the entire content of which is herein incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND**1. Field**

Aspects of embodiments of the present invention relate to an organic light-emitting display apparatus.

2. Description of the Related Art

In general, a display apparatus such as an organic light-emitting display apparatus including a thin film transistor (TFT) has been spotlighted because the display apparatus can be variously applied to a mobile display device such as a smartphone, a tablet personal computer (PC), an ultra-thin laptop, a digital camera, a video camera, or a personal digital assistant (PDA), or to an electric/electronic product such as an ultra-thin television (TV).

A gap between a top surface and a bottom surface of an organic light-emitting display apparatus may be sealed to protect the organic light-emitting device from external impact or impurities. To this end, the gap between the top surface and the bottom surface may be coated with a sealing member, and by hardening the sealing member, the top surface and the bottom surface are bonded. The lifespan and reliability of the display may be affected by the degree of adhesion between the top and bottom surfaces bonded by the sealing member.

SUMMARY

One or more embodiments of the present invention include an organic light-emitting display apparatus. Additional aspects will be set forth in part in the description that follows and, in part, will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the presented embodiments.

According to an embodiment of the present invention, an organic light-emitting display apparatus is provided. The organic light-emitting display apparatus includes a first substrate, a display unit defining an active area on the first substrate and including an insulating layer, a second substrate on the display unit, one or more signal lines outside the active area and on the insulating layer, and a sealant between the first substrate and the second substrate, and covers at least a portion of the signal lines.

The display unit may include an organic light-emitting device including a first electrode, a second electrode, and an intermediate layer between the first electrode and second electrode. The signal lines may be electrically connected to the second electrode.

The organic light-emitting display apparatus may further include a passivation layer on the insulating layer, and a metal layer on the passivation layer and electrically connecting the second electrode and the signal lines.

The metal layer may include a same material as the first electrode.

The organic light-emitting display apparatus may further include a pixel-defining layer covering the metal layer and

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having a contact hole. The second electrode may be on the pixel-defining layer and contact the metal layer through the contact hole.

The pixel-defining layer may be separated from the sealant. The insulating layer may have a first hole filled with the sealant.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, an organic light-emitting display apparatus is provided. The organic light-emitting display apparatus includes a first substrate, a display unit defining an active area on the first substrate and including an insulating layer, a second substrate on the display unit, one or more signal lines outside the active area and on the insulating layer, a pixel-defining layer on the signal lines and having a second hole, and a sealant between the first substrate and the second substrate. The sealant bonds the first substrate and the second substrate, covers at least a portion of the signal lines and at least a portion of the pixel-defining layer, and contacts the signal lines through the second hole.

The display unit may include an organic light-emitting device including a first electrode, a second electrode, and an intermediate layer between the first and second electrodes. The signal lines may be electrically connected to the second electrode.

The organic light-emitting display apparatus may further include a passivation layer on the insulating layer, and a metal layer on the passivation layer and electrically connecting the second electrode and the signal lines by contacting the signal lines.

The metal layer may include a same material as the first electrode.

The pixel-defining layer may be on the metal layer and have a contact hole. The second electrode may be on the pixel-defining layer and contact the metal layer through the contact hole.

The sealant may be separated from the second electrode.

The insulating layer may have a first hole filled with the sealant.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other aspects of the present invention will become apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of example embodiments, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic plan view of a part of an organic light-emitting display apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the organic light-emitting display apparatus of FIG. 1, taken along a line II-II' of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of an area P1 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a schematic cross-sectional view of a part of an organic light-emitting display apparatus according to another embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 5 is a plan view of an area P2 of FIG. 4.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

As the present invention allows for various changes and numerous embodiments, example embodiments will be illustrated in the drawings and described in detail in the written description. The attached drawings for illustrating described embodiments of the present invention are provided to better understand the present invention and aspects thereof. The

present invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein.

Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in detail by describing example embodiments with reference to the attached drawings. Like reference numerals in the drawings denote like elements, and repeated descriptions may be omitted. While such terms as “first,” “second,” etc., may be used to describe various components, such components are not limited to the above terms. The above terms may be used to distinguish one component from another.

An expression used in the singular encompasses the expression of the plural, unless it has a clearly different meaning in the context. In the present specification, it is to be understood that terms such as “including,” “having,” and “comprising” are intended to indicate the existence of features, numbers, steps, actions, components, parts, or combinations thereof disclosed in the specification, and are not intended to preclude the possibility that one or more other features, numbers, steps, actions, components, parts, or combinations thereof may exist or may be added.

It will be understood that when a component, such as a layer, a film, a region, or a plate, is referred to as being “on” another component, the component may be directly on the other component or intervening components may be present. Sizes of components in the drawings may be exaggerated for convenience of explanation, and embodiments of the present invention are not limited thereto.

Herein, the use of the term “may,” when describing embodiments of the present invention, refers to “one or more embodiments of the present invention.” In addition, the use of alternative language, such as “or,” when describing embodiments of the present invention, refers to “one or more embodiments of the present invention” for each corresponding item listed.

FIG. 1 is a schematic plan view of a part of an organic light-emitting display apparatus 1 according to an embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the organic light-emitting display apparatus 1 of FIG. 1, taken along a line II-II' of FIG. 1. FIG. 3 is a plan view of an area P1 of FIG. 2.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the organic light-emitting display apparatus 1 includes a first substrate 101, a display unit 200 defining an active area AA on the first substrate 101, one or more signal lines 300 (which may include, for example, signal lines for supplying signals or power lines for supplying power) arranged outside the active area AA, a second substrate 102 arranged on the display unit 200, and a sealant 500 bonding the first and second substrates 101 and 102.

The first substrate 101 may be a flexible substrate and may be formed of plastic having high heat resistance and durability. However, the first substrate 101 is not limited thereto and in other embodiments may be formed of various materials such as metal or glass.

The display unit 200 defines the active area AA on the first substrate 101. The display unit 200 includes an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) and a thin film transistor (TFT), which are electrically connected to each other. Pad units 10 are arranged around the bottom of the active area AA and may transmit electrical signals from a power supply or a signal generator to the active area AA. Hereinafter, the display unit 200 will be further described with reference to FIG. 2.

A buffer layer 103 may be formed on the first substrate 101. The buffer layer 103 may be formed on an entire surface of the first substrate 101, for example, on both the active area AA and regions surrounding the active area AA. The buffer layer

103 reduces or prevents penetration of impurities into the first substrate 101 and provides a flat surface to a top surface of the first substrate 101. The buffer layer 103 may be formed of various types of materials.

One or more insulating layers 20 may be formed on the first substrate 101. The insulating layers 20 may include a gate insulating layer 203 and an interlayer insulating layer 205.

The TFT may be formed on the buffer layer 103. The TFT may include an active layer 202, a gate electrode 204, a source electrode 206, and a drain electrode 207.

The active layer 202 may be formed of an inorganic semiconductor such as amorphous silicon and polysilicon, an organic semiconductor, or a compound semiconductor. The active layer 202 includes a source area, a drain area, and a channel area.

The gate insulating layer 203 is formed on the active layer 202. The gate insulating layer 203 may be formed to correspond to the entire surface of the first substrate 101. For example, the gate insulating layer 203 may be formed to correspond to both the active area AA and the regions surrounding the active area AA disposed on the first substrate 101. The gate insulating layer 203 insulates the gate electrode 204 from the active layer 202. The gate insulating layer 203 may be formed of organic materials or inorganic materials such as silicon nitride (SiNx) and silicon dioxide (SiO₂).

The gate electrode 204 is formed on the gate insulating layer 203. The gate electrode 204 may contain one or more materials such as gold (Au), silver (Ag), copper (Cu), nickel (Ni), platinum (Pt), palladium (Pd), aluminum (Al), molybdenum (Mo), or alloys such as an Al—Nd (neodymium) alloy or a Mo—W (tungsten) alloy. However, materials included in the gate electrode 204 are not limited thereto, and in other embodiments, the gate electrode 204 may be formed of one or more of various types of materials, depending on a structure of the gate electrode 204.

The interlayer insulating layer 205 is formed on the gate electrode 204. The interlayer insulating layer 205 may be formed to correspond to the entire surface of the first substrate 101. For example, the interlayer insulating layer 205 may be formed to correspond to the active area AA and the regions surrounding the active area AA.

The interlayer insulating layer 205 is arranged between the gate electrode 204 and the source electrode 206 and between the gate electrode 204 and the drain electrode 207 to insulate the gate electrode 204 from the source and drain electrodes 206 and 207. The interlayer insulating layer 205 may be formed of inorganic materials such as SiNx and SiO₂.

The signal lines 300 may be formed on the interlayer insulating layer 205. The signal lines 300 may be arranged outside the active area AA. The signal lines 300 may be electrically connected to a second electrode 215 and provide power to the second electrode 215. For example, the signal lines 300 may be a cathode power line (ELVSS). When the signal lines 300 are a cathode power line (ELVSS), the cathode power line (ELVSS) may be connected to cathode power having a voltage that is lower than a common power supply voltage, for example, the cathode power may have a ground voltage or a negative voltage. The signal lines 300 may be formed of the same material and formed through the same process as the source electrode 206 or the drain electrode 207.

One or more first holes H1 may be formed in the insulating layer 20. The first holes H1 may be arranged outside the active area AA. There may be a plurality of first holes H1. As the first holes H1 may be formed in the insulating layer 20 and the sealant 500 may be formed on the insulating layer 20 by filling the first holes H1, contact area of the sealant 500 may

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be increased. Accordingly, the adhesion of the first substrate **101** and the second substrate **102** may be improved.

The source electrode **206** and the drain electrode **207** are formed on the interlayer insulating layer **205**. In particular, the interlayer insulating layer **205** and the gate insulating layer **203** are formed (for example, with contact holes) to expose the source area and the drain area of the active layer **202**, and the source electrode **206** and the drain electrode **207** are formed to contact the exposed source area and drain area, respectively, of the active layer **202**.

FIG. **2** shows a top-gate-type TFT that sequentially includes the active layer **202**, the gate electrode **204**, the source electrode **206**, and the drain electrode **207**. However, the present invention is not limited thereto, and in other embodiments, the gate electrode **204** may be arranged under the active layer **202**.

The TFT is electrically connected to the OLED to operate the OLED, and is covered and protected by a passivation layer **208**. The passivation layer **208** may include an inorganic insulating layer and/or an organic insulating layer. The passivation layer **208** may cover a portion of the signal lines **300**.

A metal layer **400** may be formed on the passivation layer **208** and may contact the signal lines **300**. Since the metal layer **400** contacts the signal lines **300**, the second electrode **215** and the signal lines **300** may be electrically connected. The metal layer **400** may be formed of the same material as and formed through the same process as a first electrode **211**.

The OLED is formed on the passivation layer **208**. The OLED may include the first electrode **211**, an intermediate layer **214**, and the second electrode **215**.

The first electrode **211** is formed on the passivation layer **208**. In further detail, the passivation layer **208** may be formed (for example, with a contact hole) to expose a set or predetermined portion of the drain electrode **207** in order not to cover an entire portion thereof, and the first electrode **211** may be formed to be connected to the exposed portion of the drain electrode **207**. In the embodiment of FIG. **2**, the first electrode **211** may be a reflective electrode. The second electrode **215** may be arranged to face the first electrode **211** and may be a transparent or translucent electrode. Therefore, the second electrode **215** may transmit light that is emitted from an organic emission layer included in the intermediate layer **214**. That is, the light emitted from the organic emission layer is directly reflected or is reflected by the first electrode **211** formed as a reflective electrode, and then may be emitted to the second electrode **215**.

However, the organic light-emitting display apparatus **1** in the present invention is not limited to a top emission type and, in other embodiments, may be a bottom emission type in which the light emitted from the organic emission layer is emitted to the first substrate **101**. In this case, the first electrode **211** may be formed as a transparent or translucent electrode, and the second electrode **215** may be formed as a reflective electrode. In still other embodiments, the organic light-emitting display apparatus **1** may be a dual emission type in which the light is emitted to top and bottom surfaces of the organic light-emitting display apparatus **1**.

A pixel-defining layer **213** is formed of an insulating material on the first electrode **211**. The pixel-defining layer **213** may be formed on the signal lines **300** and may cover the metal layer **400**. In the pixel-defining layer **213**, a contact hole **H0** (or plurality of contact holes) may be formed. The second electrode **215** is formed on the pixel-defining layer **213** and may contact the metal layer **400** through the contact hole **H0**. The second electrode **215** may be electrically connected to the signal lines **300** through the metal layer **400**.

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The pixel-defining layer **213** exposes a set or predetermined portion of the first electrode **211**, and the intermediate layer **214** is disposed on the exposed portion of the first electrode **211**. The intermediate layer **214** includes the organic emission layer. The intermediate layer **214** may further include at least one of a hole injection layer (HIL), a hole transport layer, an electron transport layer, and an electron injection layer. However, the present invention is not limited thereto, and in other embodiments, the intermediate layer **214** may further include various functional layers.

The second substrate **102** is arranged on the second electrode **215**. The second electrode **215** may be a flexible substrate and may be formed of plastic having high heat resistance and durability. However, the second electrode **215** is not limited thereto, and in other embodiments may be formed of various materials such as metal or glass.

The sealant **500** is disposed between the first and second substrates **101** and **102** to bond the substrates. The sealant **500** may be formed outside the active area **AA**. The sealant **500** may include frit. The sealant **500** may function as a main barrier that reduces or prevents organic materials of the display unit **200** from being deformed due to impurities such as oxygen and moisture from outside.

The sealant **500** may be formed on the insulating layer **20**. The sealant **500** may be formed by filling the first holes **H1** formed in the insulating layer **20**. Accordingly, the adhesion of the first substrate **101** and the second substrate **102** may be improved.

The sealant **500** may cover at least some portion of the signal lines **300**. Accordingly, an area where the sealant **500** is formed is increased to an area where the signal lines **300** are formed. Therefore, the adhesion of the first substrate **101** and the second substrate **102** may be improved. If the sealant **500** is formed on the pixel-defining layer **213**, the adhesion of the sealant **500** and the pixel-defining layer **213** may not be strong enough, and thus, the sealant **500** may separate from the pixel-defining layer **213**. Accordingly, the sealant **500** may be formed to be separate from the pixel-defining layer **213** (such as being separated from the pixel-defining layer **213** by a set or predetermined distance).

Hereinafter, the area where the sealant **500** is formed will be described in further detail with reference to FIG. **3**.

Referring to FIG. **3**, the sealant **500** is formed by covering at least some portion of the signal lines **300**. Some portion of the signal lines **300** contacts the metal layer **400**. The metal layer **400** is covered with the pixel-defining layer **213**. As the sealant **500** is formed by covering at least some portion of the signal lines **300**, the area where the sealant **500** is formed is increased. Thus, the adhesion of the first and second substrates **101** and **102** is improved, and the reliability of the organic light-emitting display apparatus **1** is improved. As the sealant **500** is separate from the pixel-defining layer **213** (for example, the sealant **500** may be separated from the pixel-defining layer **213** by a set or predetermined distance **D1**), contact defects that occur when the sealant **500** is formed on the pixel-defining layer **213** may be prevented.

FIG. **4** is a schematic cross-sectional view of a part of an organic light-emitting display apparatus according to another embodiment of the present invention. FIG. **5** is a plan view of an area **P2** of FIG. **4**.

The embodiment of FIGS. **4** and **5** will be described in comparison with the embodiment of FIGS. **2** and **3**. Like reference numerals in the drawings denote like elements, and repeated descriptions may be omitted.

Referring to FIG. **4**, the organic light-emitting display apparatus includes a first substrate **101**, a display unit **2200** that defines an active area **AA** on the first substrate **101**, one or

more signal lines **300** that are formed outside the active area **AA**, a second substrate **102** that is arranged on the display unit **2200**, and a sealant **2500** that bonds the first substrate **101** and the second substrate **102**.

A pixel-defining layer **2213** is formed of an insulating material on a first electrode **211**. The pixel-defining layer **2213** is also formed on a metal layer **400**. A contact hole **H0** (or plurality of contact holes) is formed in the pixel-defining layer **2213**. A second electrode **215** is formed on the pixel-defining layer **2213** and may contact the metal layer **400** through the contact hole **H0**. The second electrode **215** may be electrically connected to the signal lines **300** through the metal layer **400**.

A second hole **H2** (or plurality of second holes) may be formed in the pixel-defining layer **2213** corresponding to the signal lines **300**. Accordingly, some portion of the signal lines **300** may be exposed.

The sealant **2500** covers at least some portion of the signal lines **300**. Thus, an area where the sealant **2500** is formed is increased by an area where this portion of the signal lines **300** is formed. Therefore, the adhesion of the first substrate **101** and the second substrate **102** may be improved. Furthermore, the sealant **2500** may be formed on the pixel-defining layer **2213**. Through the second hole **H2**, the sealant **2500** and the signal lines **300** may further contact each other. Thus, although the adhesion of the sealant **2500** and the pixel-defining layer **2213** may not be strong enough, the area where the sealant **2500** is formed may be increased by a portion of an area where the pixel-defining layer **2213** is formed. Accordingly, the adhesion of the first substrate **101** and the second substrate **102** may be improved. The sealant **2500** may be separate from the second electrode **215** in order to prevent damage to the second electrode **215**.

Hereinafter, the area where the sealant **2500** is formed will be described in further detail with reference to FIG. 5.

Referring to FIG. 5, the sealant **2500** is formed by covering at least some portion of the signal lines **300**. Some portion of the signal lines **300** contacts the metal layer **400**. The pixel-defining layer **2213** is formed on the metal layer **400**, and the second hole **H2** is formed in the pixel-defining layer **2213** (for example, corresponding to the signal lines **300**). Therefore, the sealant **2500** may contact the signal lines **300** through the second hole **H2**. Accordingly, the area where the sealant **2500** is formed may be increased by a portion of the pixel-defining layer **2213**.

As the area where the sealant **2500** is formed is increased, the adhesion of the first and second substrates **101** and **102** may be improved, and thus, the reliability of the organic light-emitting display apparatus may be improved. The sealant **2500** may be separate from the second electrode **215** by a set or predetermined distance **D2**. As the sealant **2500** is separate from the second electrode **215**, damage to the second electrode **215**, which occurs when the sealant **2500** contacts the second electrode **215**, may be prevented.

As described above, according to the one or more of the above embodiments of the present invention, the lifespan and reliability of an organic light-emitting display apparatus may be improved by improving the adhesion of top and bottom substrates, namely, the first and second substrates **101** and **102**, of the organic light-emitting display apparatus.

It should be understood that the exemplary embodiments described herein should be considered in a descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation. Descriptions of features or aspects within each embodiment should be considered as generally available for other similar features or aspects in other embodiments.

While one or more embodiments of the present invention have been described with reference to the figures, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the following claims, and equivalents thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. An organic light-emitting display apparatus comprising:
 - a first substrate;
 - a display unit defining an active area on the first substrate and comprising an insulating layer;
 - a second substrate on the display unit;
 - one or more signal lines outside the active area and on the insulating layer, the signal lines being between the insulating layer and the second substrate; and
 - a sealant between the first substrate and the second substrate and on the insulating layer, the insulating layer being between the first substrate and the sealant, the sealant bonding the first substrate and the second substrate, and covering at least a portion of the signal lines, wherein the insulating layer has a first hole filled with the sealant.
2. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the display unit comprises an organic light-emitting device comprising a first electrode, a second electrode, and an intermediate layer between the first electrode and second electrode, and
 - wherein the signal lines are electrically connected to the second electrode.
3. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
 - a passivation layer on the insulating layer; and
 - a metal layer on the passivation layer and electrically connecting the second electrode and the signal lines.
4. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 3, wherein the metal layer comprises a same material as the first electrode.
5. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a pixel-defining layer covering the metal layer and having a contact hole, wherein the second electrode is on the pixel-defining layer and contacts the metal layer through the contact hole.
6. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 5, wherein the pixel-defining layer is separated from the sealant.
7. An organic light-emitting display apparatus comprising:
 - a first substrate;
 - a display unit defining an active area on the first substrate and comprising an insulating layer;
 - a second substrate on the display unit;
 - one or more signal lines outside the active area and on the insulating layer;
 - a pixel-defining layer on the signal lines and having a first hole; and
 - a sealant between the first substrate and the second substrate, bonding the first substrate and the second substrate, covering at least a portion of the signal lines and at least a portion of the pixel-defining layer, and contacting the signal lines through the first hole.
8. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 7, wherein the display unit comprises an organic light-emitting device comprising a first electrode, a second electrode, and an intermediate layer between the first and second electrodes, and
 - wherein the signal lines are electrically connected to the second electrode.
9. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a passivation layer on the insulating layer; and
a metal layer on the passivation layer and electrically connecting the second electrode and the signal lines by contacting the signal lines.

10. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 9, 5
wherein the metal layer comprises a same material as the first electrode.

11. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 9,
wherein the pixel-defining layer is on the metal layer and
has a contact hole, and 10
wherein the second electrode is on the pixel-defining layer
and contacts the metal layer through the contact hole.

12. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim
11, wherein the sealant is separated from the second electrode. 15

13. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 7,
wherein the insulating layer has a second hole filled with the
sealant.

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